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KHPA Board Studying Budget Options

Agency Identifies Choices for FY 2011

(TOPEKA) – The Kansas Health Policy Authority Board began looking at options today for trimming up to \$6 million in state Medicaid and SCHIP expenses in the fiscal year that begins next July.

“The state’s revenue picture remains very uncertain,” said KHPA Acting Executive Director Dr. Andrew Allison. “Like all other agencies, we’ve been asked to identify ways to cut spending to help balance next year’s budget. The options we’re developing are intended to improve efficiency, patient safety, equity, and personal responsibility, but in some cases it’s hard to save money without having an impact on the providers and families that participate in our programs. We appreciate the Board’s input today and will take a hard look at these options before coming back to them in September.”

The measures presented for the Board to consider include:

- Charging a co-pay for some emergency room visits for non-emergency care.
- Increase HealthWave premiums by either \$10 or \$20 per family, per month.
- Streamline and expand the use of Prior Authorization requirements for certain medical services.
- Align professional fees for medical services at the current average of 84% of Medicare rates.
- Implement a pharmacy management program for mental health prescription drugs.

KHPA has been asked to submit a budget that includes a 5-percent reduction in State General Fund expenditures, excluding direct Medicaid caseload costs. Additional details and background material on the suggested budget options are available on the [KHPA website](http://www.khpa.ks.gov).

The Board is expected to vote on a proposed budget at its next regular meeting Sept. 15. That budget will then be submitted as a request to Gov. Mark Parkinson for consideration as he prepares his budget submission for the Kansas legislature to consider when it reconvenes in January.

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